

March 27, 1995

E-002/M-95-32

ORDER APPROVING LIST OF INDEPENDENT EVALUATORS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm
Tom Burton
Joel Jacobs
Marshall Johnson
Dee Knaak

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of Northern States Power
Company's Petition for Approval of
Independent Evaluator Candidates for its
Biomass Generation RFP

ISSUE DATE: March 27, 1995

DOCKET NO. E-002/M-95-32

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 18, 1994, the Commission issued its ORDER ACCEPTING COMPANY'S PROPOSAL WITH MODIFICATIONS AND REQUIRING FURTHER FILINGS in Docket No. E-002/RP-93-630 and E-002/M-94-730. In that Order, the Commission ordered, among other things, the use of an independent evaluator to evaluate proposals under the bidding process.

ON December 23, 1994, the Commission issued its ORDER APPROVING REVISED LIST OF INDEPENDENT WIND BID EVALUATORS in Docket No. E-002/M-94-730.

On January 11, 1995, Northern States Power Company (NSP or the Company) submitted its proposed list of independent evaluators of bids to be submitted for a 50 MW Biomass Generation Facility. The matter was assigned to the current docket, E-002/M-95-32.

On January 18, 1995, the Company requested approval of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 50 MW Biomass Generation Facility. This request was assigned to Docket No. E-002/M-95-54.

On February 3, 1995, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) filed comments recommending approval of the Company's proposed list of candidates.

On March 16, 1995, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

NSP proposed a list of bid evaluators quite similar to the list approved in the wind docket, E-002/M-94-730. The Commission finds that NSP made several justified changes in the list that was approved in the wind docket. Those changes and the reasons for those changes are as follows:

First, NSP eliminated one firm (Charles River Associates) at the firm's request.
Second, the Company eliminated another firm (HDR Engineering) when that firm did not supply additional information to substantiate its qualifications.

Third, NSP added a company, R.J. Rudden and Associates, based on information supplied by that company.

Fourth, NSP included Putnam, Hayes, and Bartlett, a firm which the Commission had deleted from the list of wind bid evaluators in Docket No. E-002/M-94-730. NSP provided additional information which supported the inclusion of this firm.

In addition, NSP provided additional information concerning Power Systems Engineering, an evaluator which had been approved for the wind list.

In its comments recommending approval of the Company's proposed list, the Department noted that it could identify no conflicts of interest between NSP and any of the independent evaluator candidates.

Accordingly, the Commission will approve the list proposed by the Company in this docket.

ORDER

1. The Commission hereby approves the list of independent evaluators which has been proposed by Northern States Power Company in this matter.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)